

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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P R 012015Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8464

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3005

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JM, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER MANLEY

REF: KINGSTON 2987

1. AFTER EXCHANGE WITH PM MANLEY JULY 31 ON THIS FALL'S UNGA SESSIONS (REFTEL), WE DISCUSSED FOLLOWING SUBJECTS.

2. CUBA - THE PRIME MINISTER RAISED THE SUBJECT BY COMMENTING THAT THE SPIRIT OF DETENTE APPEARED TO BE EXTENDING TO THE CARIBBEAN AS EVIDENCED BY RECENT OAS ACTIONS ON CUBA. I REPLIED THAT I GENERALLY AGREED BUT WOULD BE LESS THAN FRANK IF I DID NOT MENTION THAT SOME OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S RHETORIC DURING HIS RECENT CUBAN VISIT AND ON HIS RETURN TO JAMAICA HAD RAISED A NUMBER OF EYEBROWS. MANLEY FEIGNED DISBELIEF ASKING WHAT HAD GOTTEN PEOPLE EXCITED. WHEN I MENTIONED THAT THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE MEETING WAS NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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EXACTLY MUSIC TO OUR EARS MANLEY REPLIED "DOES ANYBODY

READ THOSE THINGS, REALLY TAKE THEM SERIOUSLY?" I SAID FRANKLY YESS, AND A NUMBER OF OBSERVERS HAVE NOTED THAT COMMUNIQUE WENT CONSIDERABLY FURTHER THAN THE ONES ISSUED FOLLOWING THE VISITS OF FORBES BURNHAM AND ERIC WILLIAMS. PM MANLEY EXPLAINED THAT THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE WAS MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THAT ORIGINALLY PRESENTED BY THE CUBANS PARTICULARLY ON THE SUBJECT OF PUERTO RICO WHICH WAS MARKEDLY TONED DOWN. HE CLAIMED THAT HE TOLD THE CUBANS THAT THE PUERTO RICANS HAD DECIDED IN A FREE ELECTION TO GO ALONG WITH THE U.S. AND AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED THAT WAS THAT. THE PRIME MINISTER CONCLUDED THIS TOPIC WITH THE COMMENT THAT THE REMARKABLE THING ABOUT THE CUBANS WAS THAT THERE WAS NO TROUBLE WHATSOEVER IN MAKING THE CHANGES IN THE COMMUNIQUE DESIRED BY THE JAMAICANS. THEY WERE MUCH MORE FLEXIBLE THAN PREVIOUSLY.

3. JAMAICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. - PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE HAD GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS TO FIND THE RIGHT MAN FOR WASHINGTON AND FELT ALFRED RATTRAY WAS A GOOD, HARD WORKING MAN. I COMMENTED THAT THE EMBASSY HAD HEARD MANY FINE THINGS ABOUT HIM AND THAT I HOPED FORMAL AGREEMENT WOULD BE RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON SOON AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S RETURN FROM HIS EUROPEAN TRIP. IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH FORMER AMBASSADOR FLETCHER I LEARNED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WANTS RATTRAY TO TAKE UP HIS POST DURING THE THIRD WEEK IN AUGUST SO THAT HE IS SOMEWHAT ESTABLISHED BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER TRAVELS TO NEW YORK FOR THE UN 7TH SS UNGA.

4. BAUXITE - WHEN I ASKED THE PRIME MINISTER HOW THE VARIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WERE PROCEEDING WITH THE COMPANIES HE GAVE ME A RATHER UPBEAT BUT BLAND REPLY THAT THINGS WERE GOING ALONG FINE WITH KAISER, REVERE AND REYNOLDS, AND THAT TALKS HAD JUST STARTED WITH ALCAN. AS FOR JAVAMEX AS A RESULT OF MEYER MATALON'S RECENT TRIP TO MEXICO PRACTICALLY ALL PREPARATIONS PRIOR TO ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. THE NEW PLANT WILL HAVE A 900,000 TON CAPACITY AND JAMAICA WILL TAKE 100,000 TONS WHICH WILL GIVE HER EXPERIENCE IN MARKETING. MANLEY CLAIMED THAT WHILE THE REVERE PLANT WAS IN NEED OF EXPANSION IF IT WERE TO BECOME MORE EFFICIENT, GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLAN TO DO SO AT THIS

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TIME. ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN AN EXPANSION OF THE ALCOA PLANT ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD BE CHEAPER THAN BUILDING A NEW ONE, MANLEY COMMENTED THAT IT WAS AN INTERESTING IDEA AND THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING IN IT. COMMENT: MANLEY ACTED LIKE THE SUGGESTION OF AN ALCOA EXPANSION WAS ENTIRELY NEW TO HIM. THE EMBASSY FINDS THAT RATHER HARD TO BELIEVE AS THE LOCAL ALCOA MANAGER HAS FLOATED IT WITH FORMER AMBASSADOR FLETCHER WHO IS FAIRLY

ENTHUSIASTIC WITH THE IDEA.

5. PEACE CORPS - I RECALLED AN EARLIER CONVERSATION WE HAD HAD ON THE SUBJECT OF PEACE CORPS AND SUGGESTED THAT NOW MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO REVIEW THE BASIC AGREEMENT. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THAT IT WAS NECESSARY AS THERE APPEARED TO BE NO PROBLEMS AND THAT THE PROGRAM WAS GOING ALONG JUST FINE. I ASSURED HIM THAT WE PERCEIVED NO PROBLEMS EITHER BUT DESIRED A REVIEW IN ORDER TO UP DATE CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW TO DETERMINE JAMAICA'S PRIORITY AREAS FOR THE PLACEMENT OF VOLUNTEERS.

6. ANTI-INFLATION PACKAGE - I ASKED THE PRIME MINISTER HOW WORK WAS PROCEEDING ON THE ANTI-INFLATION PACKAGE WHICH HE HAS SAID HE WILL ANNOUNCE AT THE END OF THE MONTH. SPECIFICALLY I WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER THERE WAS ANY SUBSTANCE TO THE RUMORS THAT FAIRLY SEVERE RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL AND THE AMOUNT OF MONEY ONE COULD TAKE OUT OF THE COUNTRY WOULD BE IMPOSED. OUR INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT IS FAIRLY DIRECT AS THE LARGEST SINGLE ELEMENT OF OUR MISSION IS CONCERNED WITH THE ISSUANCE OF VISAS. THE PRIME MINISTER ADMITTED THAT HE WAS HAVING A HARD TIME PUTTING THE PACKAGE TOGETHER. WITH REGARD TO THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS HE SIMPLY SAID THAT HE WOULD MAKE NOTE OF MY COMMENTS AND WAS GLAD TO HAVE THEM.
GERARD

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